

MARRIAGE & DIVORCE STATISTICS

MARRIAGE RATE

There were 2,399 marriages in Lancaster County in 1999. This translates into a rate of 10.1 per 1,000 population. The Nebraska rate was 7.6 per 1,000 in 1999. The marriage rates for Nebraska and Lancaster County have remained relatively stable for the past five years (Figure 19).

The most common months of marriage were June, July, and May respectively (Table 28).

AGE AND RACE

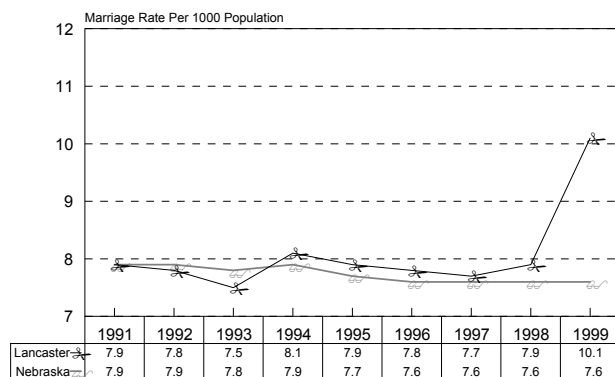
In 1999, 2218 (92.5%) grooms and 2245 (93.6%) brides were White. The remaining 181 grooms and 154 brides were of other races. 14 grooms and 11 brides did not report any race (Table 29).

TABLE 28.
Marriages by Month
Lancaster County, 1999

Month	Frequency	Percent
January	90	3.8
February	93	3.9
March	123	5.1
April	186	7.8
May	295	12.3
June	330	13.8
July	328	13.7
August	277	11.5
September	235	9.8
October	219	9.1
November	117	4.9
December	106	4.4
Total	2399	100

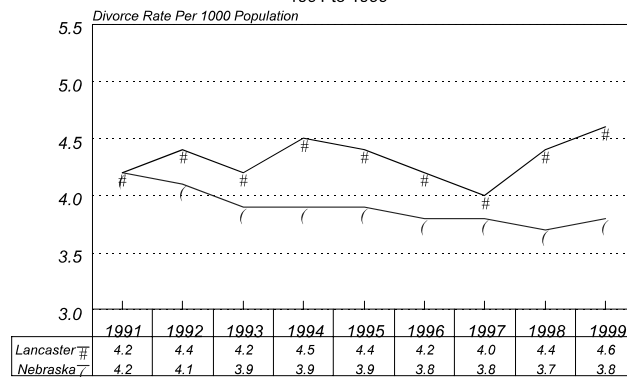
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Figure 19: Marriage Rate
Lancaster County and Nebraska
1991 to 1999



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Figure 20: Divorce Rate
Lancaster County and Nebraska
1991 to 1999



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In 1998, the mean (average) age for Lancaster County grooms was 31.7 years. The mean age for brides was 28.9 years.

The mean marriage age of White males and females was 30.6 and 28.9 years, respectively. The mean age for Black males and females was 33.0 and 29.5 years, respectively. The mean marriage age for American Indian males and females was 33.4 and 33.2, respectively. The mean marriage age was 29.5 for Asian males and 27.0 for Asian females.

EDUCATION

Grooms and brides had a mean education of 14.4 years or two years of education beyond high school. The most frequent educational level was equivalent to a high school education (12 years).

DIVORCE RATE

The 1999 marriage/divorce ratio in Lancaster County was 2.2/1 (Table 30), indicating that there were 2.2 times as many marriages as divorces.

There were 1,111 divorces in Lancaster County in 1999. This represents a rate of 4.6 per 1,000 population, a rate similar to those of the previous decade (Figure 20). The 1998 divorce rate for Nebraska was 4.7 per 1,000 population.

Among males divorced in 1999, 68.9 percent were divorced for the first time,

while among females, 67.6 percent divorced for the first time.

AGE AND RACE

The average age of divorced males was 37.8 years and the average age of divorced females was 35.5 years. The median age of divorced males was 37.0 years, while the median age of divorced females was 35.0 years. The average age of first time divorced males and females was 26.7 and 25.1 years, respectively.

Of the divorces where race was reported in 1999, 90.4 percent divorces involved White males and 91.2 percent of divorces involved White females. Marriage/divorce ratios ranged from 1.8 for Black males to 4.4 for Asian males (Table 30).

SETTLEMENT

In 1999, divorce settlements ranged from no settlement to alimony, child support, property, or a combination of settlements. Table 32 lists the types and frequencies of divorce settlements. Divorces most commonly involved property settlement only (43.1%) or property settlement and child support (34.1%).

CHILDREN OF DIVORCE & CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS

Of the 1,111 divorces in 1999, 585 (52.6%) occurred in households with children under the age of 18. These divorces involved 1,028 children (0.9 children per divorce).

Of the 585 divorce settlements involving children during 1999, the divorced woman was awarded exclusive custody of all or some children in 695 (67.6%) of the cases. Divorced men were awarded exclusive custody of some or all children in 83 (8.0%) of these divorces.

In 149 (14.5%) of divorces, joint custody was awarded for some of all of the children. In 12 (1.2%) of divorces, some or all children were awarded to a party other than the divorced man or woman.

Table 29.
Marriage by Sex and Race
Lancaster County, 1999

Race	Males	Percent	Females	Percent
White	2218	92.5	2245	93.6
Black	92	3.8	52	2.2
Am.Indian	13	0.5	12	0.5
Asian	62	2.6	78	3.2
Other/Unknown	14	0.6	12	0.5
Total	2399	100	2399	100

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TABLE 30.
Marriage/Divorce Ratio
Race of Male
Lancaster County, 1999

Race	Number of Marriages/ Divorce	Ratio
White	2218/1004	2.2/1
Black	92/52	1.8/1
Am Indian	13/8	1.6/1
Asian	62/14	4.4/1
Other	14/32	0.4/1
TOTAL	2399/1111	2.16/1

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TABLE 31.
Number of Times Married At Time Of Divorce
Males and Females
Lancaster County, 1999

Times Married	Males	Percent	Females	Percent
1	766	68.9	751	67.6
2	243	21.9	238	21.4
3	58	5.2	74	6.7
4	6	0.5	11	1
5	5	0.5	2	0.2
6 or More	1	0.1	2	0.2
Not Classifiable	32	2.9	33	3
TOTAL	1111	100	1111	100

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TABLE 32.
Types of Settlements
Lancaster County, 1999

Settlement	Frequency	Percentage
None	121	10.9
Alimony Only	2	0.2
Child Support Only	33	3
Property Settlement Only	479	43.1
Alimony and Child Support	2	0.2
Alimony and Property Settlement	36	3.2
Child Support and Property Settlement	379	34.1
Alimony, Child Support, & Property	59	5.3
TOTAL	1111	100

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